

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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TO : Department of State

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FROM : ~~TEG~~CIGALPA 404 December 30, 1950.

REF : Embassy's Telegram No. 87, December 30, 1950.

SUBJECT : HONDURAN-SALVADORAN BORDER FRAGAS.

On December 20, 1950, Salvadoran census takers entered the district south of the CAJAS River to take the Salvadoran agrarian census. The opposition of the Honduran authorities in this area was encountered. As a result there was a shooting episode in which, according to Honduran authorities, fifteen Honduran and sixteen Salvadoran soldiers were engaged. The shooting lasted about one hour and resulted in several minor injuries and the capture of one Salvadoran soldier by the Hondurans.

The Honduran Foreign Minister accompanied by Colonel José Augusto PADILLA VEGA, Honduran Head of the Geodetic Survey, flew to San Salvador on December 23, where they conferred with the Salvadoran Foreign Minister and a Salvadoran engineer the counterpart of Colonel Padilla Vega. According to the latter, the Foreign Ministers and their aides travelled by car to the disputed area where they held conferences with local officials and officers of the respective Governments. An arrangement was made, details of which have not been obtained, for settlement of the incident. Both parties agreed that in the interest of the harmonious relations which exist between the countries it would be best for all concerned if all information regarding the shooting were suppressed.

The district in which this incident occurred is indicated in red on the map enclosed with the Embassy's despatch No. 402 of December 29, 1950. The municipality of Colomoncagua in Honduras considers this area as part of its common lands. At the same time the Salvadoran municipality of Carolina claims that the disputed district belongs to it. As a matter of fact, according to the Honduran sources, the area is actually in the possession and is administered by Honduras. The Honduran Foreign Minister and other Honduran officials are quite optimistic that a definitive settlement regarding this area and the other more important ones under dispute between the two countries, as shown in the map enclosed with the Embassy's despatch No. 402, can be reached without undue delay. However, since an agreement regarding the limitation of the boundary has not been obtained in one hundred years, there may be unforeseen obstacles in concluding a settlement.

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The Embassy will forward
additional info.

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Signed by
Blankinship

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